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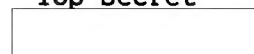


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UK-ARGENTINA: Military Activity Continuing

The battle for Stanley has begun. Despite Argentine claims to the contrary, the British aircraft carrier Invincible appears to be undamaged. The two sides remain far apart in UN cease-fire discussions.

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[redacted] press reports indicate that some 3,000 fresh troops have landed at a second beachhead north of the town. Weather conditions over the next few days should not pose a problem for either ground or air operations.// [redacted]

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Comment: [redacted]

[redacted] The UK blockade has restricted Argentine supply efforts, however, and the fall of Darwin and Goose Green with the attendant capture of up to 1,400 soldiers probably has dealt the remaining Argentine forces on the island a serious psychological blow.

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[redacted]

The Argentines, however, are not likely to abandon the Falklands struggle without further fighting. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Argentine forces at Stanley have little chance to hold the British off, but they could inflict heavy casualties. [redacted]

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//The British have had time to get most of the forces landed at San Carlos into position where they can attack Stanley. If, as claimed in the press, the British have landed an additional 3,000 troops--from the Queen Elizabeth 2--they would have parity of forces along with significant tactical advantage.//

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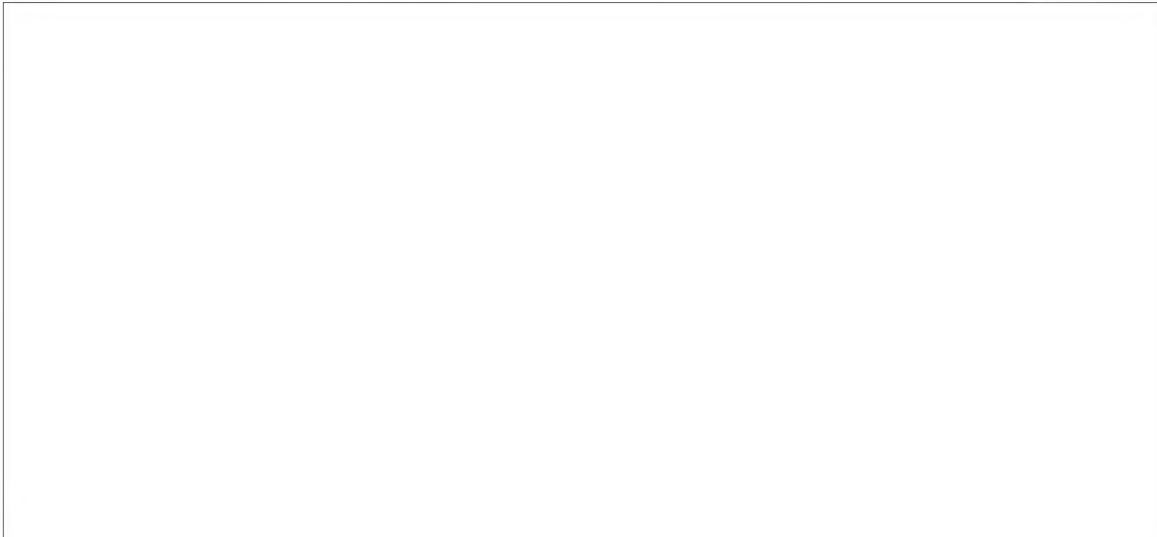
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Argentina at the Nonaligned Meeting

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Argentina sent a high-level delegation to the non-aligned movement ministerial meeting that began in Havana yesterday to lobby for support in the Falklands conflict.



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USSR - SRI LANKA: Increased Soviet Interest in Shipping

The Soviets may seek greater use of Sri Lankan facilities to support their commercial and military operations in the Indian Ocean.

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Sri Lanka welcomes port visits by nonnuclear combatants of all countries and has actively sought ship repair business. The Soviet Navy showed little interest in the use of Sri Lankan facilities until the current government came to power in 1977 and improved relations with the US. More recently, the Soviets have been looking for an alternative to Singapore, where labor costs are high, and where the repair of Soviet naval auxiliaries has been denied since the invasion of Afghanistan.

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POLAND: Food Supplies

Four months after the large increases in the price of food, the Polish market continues to be relatively well supplied. The improvement reflects diminished demand by many consumers who cannot afford even rationed goods, rather than an increase in available food. Food prices increased 128 percent in the first quarter of this year, as compared with the same period last year, while wages increased only half as much. Although price hikes have shortened food lines and reduced hoarding and waste, the increases are causing hardship for more people.

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Comment: Consumers remain restive over the increased food prices. Even well-to-do consumers will be angered if meat supplies are reduced in the third quarter.

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MOZAMBIQUE-US: Seeking Improved Relations

//President Machel, during a visit to Cuba last week, told the chief of the US Interests Section there that he is anxious to improve Mozambique's relations with Washington. Several senior Mozambican officials, meanwhile, are visiting the US. They are seeking to convince US businessmen that Mozambique is not a Soviet satellite and are hoping to attract US trade and investment. Mozambique also has been seeking to strengthen its relations with West European countries.//

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Comment: //This is the first report in years of such a statement by Machel to a US official. Machel probably hopes that improved ties with Western countries would lead them to put pressure on South Africa to rein in Mozambican insurgents whose activities have widened in recent months. He also sees an increased Western economic role as essential if Mozambique is to halt its steady economic deterioration. At the same time, Mozambique's dependence on Soviet Bloc military aid will work against a loosening of ties with the USSR and its allies or an abandonment of anti-US rhetoric.//

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COLOMBIA: Election Results

Conservative Belisario Betancur has been elected President for a four year term beginning 7 August. Voter turnout on Sunday was heavy by Colombian standards; the final vote may be close to 7 million, a 40-percent increase over the 1978 presidential election. Few acts of violence were reported despite widely publicized threats that Cuban-supported M-19 insurgent groups would sabotage the election process. In his first major address Betancur announced he would give top priority to the country's economic problems and to negotiating an amnesty for the insurgents. [REDACTED]

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Comment: As the first Conservative to be elected president in 36 years, Betancur owes his success in large part to a rancorous split in the majority opposition Liberal party that resulted in two Liberal candidates competing against each other. Betancur's solid plurality will initially give him a firm base for his administration's efforts to deal with serious social and economic problems and to work strongly for continued democracy. His first major challenge will be to persuade the conservative military that his plans for a general amnesty will produce political peace in the country. Colombian military leaders up to now have vetoed proposals by civilian leaders that would give the insurgents immunity for crimes committed in combat in exchange for laying down their arms. [REDACTED]

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